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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **National Park Service**

**[NPS–WASO–OIA–14775; PIN00IO14.XI0000]**

### **Submission of U.S. Nomination to the World Heritage List**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Interior is submitting a nomination to the World Heritage List for the San Antonio Missions in Texas, consisting of most of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park as well as the Alamo, a National Historic Landmark. This is the third notice required by the National Park Service's World Heritage Program regulations.

**DATES:** The World Heritage Committee will likely consider the nomination at its 39th annual session in mid-2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen Morris, Chief, Office of International Affairs at 202–354–1803 or Jonathan Putnam, International Cooperation Specialist at 202–354–1809. Complete information about U.S. participation in the World Heritage Program and the process used to develop the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List is posted on the National Park Service, Office of International Affairs Web site at:

<http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/worldheritage.htm>.

To request paper copies of documents discussed in this notice, please contact April Brooks, Office of International Affairs, National Park Service, 1201 Eye Street NW, (0050) Washington, DC 20005; Email: [April\\_Brooks@nps.gov](mailto:April_Brooks@nps.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

This constitutes the official notice of the decision by the United States Department of the Interior to submit a nomination to the World Heritage List for the “San Antonio Missions” in Bexar County and Wilson County, Texas, and serves as the Third Notice referred to in 36 CFR 73.7(j) of the World Heritage Program regulations (36 CFR part 73).

The nomination is being submitted through the U.S. Department of State to the World Heritage Centre of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for consideration by the World Heritage Committee, which will likely occur at the Committee’s 39th annual session in mid-2015.

This property has been selected from the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List, where it was listed as “San Antonio Franciscan Missions.” The Tentative List consists of properties that appear to qualify for World Heritage status and which may be considered for nomination by the United States to the World Heritage List.

The U.S. World Heritage Tentative List appeared in a Federal Register notice on March 5, 2012 (77FR 13147-13149), with a request for public comment on possible nominations from the 13 sites on the Tentative List. A summary of the comments received, the Department of the Interior’s responses to them and the Department’s decision to request preparation of this nomination appeared in a subsequent Federal Register Notice published on June 26, 2012 (77 FR 38078–38081). These are the First and Second Notices required by 36 CFR 73.7(c) and (f).

In making the decision to submit this U.S. World Heritage nomination, pursuant to 36 CFR 73.7(h) and (i), the Department's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks evaluated the draft nomination and the recommendations of the Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage. She determined that the property meets the prerequisites for nomination by the United States to the World Heritage List that are detailed in 36 CFR part 73. It is nationally significant, as it comprises areas within a Congressionally-designated National Historical Park and a site designated by the Department of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark. The owners of the site, which include the United States Government, the Texas General Land Office, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the San Antonio River Authority, the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio, the San Juan Ditch Water Supply Corporation, and the Espada Ditch Company, have concurred in writing with the nomination, and the property is well protected legally and functionally as documented in the nomination. It appears to meet the World Heritage criteria for cultural properties.

The San Antonio Missions are nominated under World Heritage cultural criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv) as provided in 36 CFR 73.9(b)(1), as the most complete and most intact example of the Spanish Crown's efforts to colonize, evangelize, and defend the northern frontier of New Spain during the period when Spain controlled the largest empire in the world. Situated along a 7.7-mile stretch of the San Antonio River, these five Spanish colonial mission complexes were built in the early eighteenth century. The missions' more than fifty standing structures, archaeological resources, and landscape features include *labores*, a *rancho*, residences, a grist mill, granaries, workshops, wells, lime kilns, churches, *conventos*, and perimeter walls for protection. The

ensemble of missions includes extensive agricultural irrigation systems of *acequias*, dams, and an aqueduct. The San Antonio Missions also meet with the test of authenticity and have adequate legal, contractual, or traditional protection and management mechanisms to ensure their conservation pursuant to 36 CFR 73.9(b)(2).

The World Heritage List is an international list of cultural and natural properties nominated by the signatories to the World Heritage Convention (1972). The United States was the prime architect of the Convention, an international treaty for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage sites of global significance proposed by President Richard M. Nixon in 1972, and the U.S. was the first nation to ratify it. The World Heritage Committee, composed of representatives of 21 nations elected as the governing body of the World Heritage Convention, makes the final decisions on which nominations to accept on the World Heritage List at its annual meeting each summer. The United States has served four terms on the World Heritage Committee, but is not currently a member.

There are 981 World Heritage sites in 160 of the 190 signatory countries. The United States has 21 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List.

U.S. participation and the role of the Department of the Interior are authorized by Section 401 of Title IV of the Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980, (16 U.S.C. 470a–1), and conducted by the Department through the National Park Service in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR part 73 which implement the Convention pursuant to the 1980 Amendments. The Department of the Interior has the lead role for the U.S. Government in the implementation of the Convention; the National Park Service serves as the principal technical agency within the Department for World Heritage matters and manages all or parts of 19 of the 21 U.S. World Heritage Sites.

The World Heritage Committee's *Operational Guidelines* require participating nations to provide tentative lists, which aid in evaluating properties for the World Heritage List on a comparative international basis and help the Committee to schedule its work. The current U.S. Tentative List was transmitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on January 24, 2008.

Neither inclusion in the Tentative List nor inscription as a World Heritage Site imposes legal restrictions on owners or neighbors of sites, nor does it give the United Nations any management authority or ownership rights in U.S. World Heritage Sites, which continue to be subject only to U.S. federal and local laws, as applicable.

Dated: March 25, 2014.

Rachel Jacobson  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

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